



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR KEVIN KELLY
TWENTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8800
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421
FAX: (860) 240-8306
E-Mail: Kevin.Kelly@cga.ct.gov
www.SenatorKevinKelly.com

RANKING MEMBER

AGING COMMITTEE

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

In Support of *H.B. No. 5358 An Act Authorizing the Regulation Review Committee to Recommend the Repeal of Obsolete or Burdensome Regulations* and *S.B. No. 272 An Act Establishing a Fixed Time Period for Agency Review of Existing Regulations*
March 3, 2014

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of *H.B. No. 5358 An Act Authorizing the Regulation Review Committee to Recommend the Repeal of Obsolete or Burdensome Regulations* and *S.B. No. 272 An Act Establishing a Fixed Time Period for Agency Review of Existing Regulations*.

Connecticut's complex maze of burdensome regulations inhibits economic growth. I support these two bills in an effort to eliminate outdated regulations in every state agency.

Before us you can see a complete set of Connecticut's Agency Regulations, an 18 binder set that costs \$714. Inside of these binders are 15,000 pages of state regulations. Many of these regulations are obsolete and burdensome and are doing more harm than good. It is time for Connecticut to cut the red tape, eliminate the unnecessary rules and move our economy forward.

According to *Forbes Best States for Business and Careers*, Connecticut's regulatory environment ranks 39th in the nation. We have to move in a different direction as a state. We need to envision a state government that is leaner and more efficient - a government that is friendlier to those of us who live here, work here and want to create jobs here.

According to "The Connecticut Economy," a quarterly journal released in 2011 by the University of Connecticut, we could boost our job growth rate by 1 to 2 percentage points by reducing regulations. The study also found that while economic performance benefits from some regulation, it is hurt by too much regulation. There is a tipping point and, looking at these huge binders, clearly Connecticut has gone far beyond that point.

It's no wonder Connecticut lags in small business growth. It is increasingly difficult for local employers to survive when they are bogged down by these incredibly excessive regulations.

Authorizing the Regulation Review Committee to recommend the repeal of regulations is an important step in improving our business environment. As a bipartisan committee dedicated to protecting both minority and majority interests, the Regulation Review Committee would serve as a proper body to review and suggest repeals of unnecessary regulations.

Similarly, requiring agencies to submit a review of their existing regulations every four years would help streamline the regulations review process, thereby bringing us closer to removing unnecessary burdens on the people of Connecticut.

Excessive red-tape hinders economic growth. And it's time we create a path to efficiently review and repeal these unwarranted burdens.

Thank you for raising these bills and for the opportunity to testify today.